

5 assembly (CSA) (12) and the water management system (28,
30), from freezing under extreme cold external
temperatures, during extended storage (CSA shut-down)
periods. Pre-stored and pressurized fuel, typically
hydrogen (25), normally used to fuel the anode (16) of the
10 CSA, is used as fuel for a catalytic oxidation reaction at
a catalytic burner (66) to produce heated gas that
convectively passes in heat exchange relation with the
freeze sensitive portions (12, 28, 30) of the power plant
(10). The convective flow of the heated gases induces the
15 air flow to the burner (66), obviating the need for
parasitic electrical loads. Thermal insulating means (64)
substantially enclose the freeze-sensitive CSA (12) and/or
the water management system (28, 30), and the convective
flow of the heated gas from the catalytic burner (66), to
20 improve system thermal efficiency.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of April 25, 2003. Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 are rejected. Claim 8 is allowed. The Abstract is objected to for undue length, and is shortened by amendment herewith.

Firstly, applicants note with appreciation the indication that method claim 8 is allowed.

Secondly, applicants submit herewith a shortened Abstract paragraph having about 145 words, to replace the prior Abstract paragraph whose length was deemed excessive. A marked copy of that Abstract paragraph is attached hereto, showing the changes made by the replacement paragraph.

Finally, applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Acker ('052) in view of Gebhardt et al ('165) and further in view of Tomomura et al ('210), for the reasons stated in the following paragraphs.